AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product, comprising:

a base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support surface;

a slotted anvil disposed on top of the base and including a slotted support surface on which the food product is positioned;

first pivot means pivotally mounting the slotted anvil on the base for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-supporting position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food particles to be cleaned off of the base;

a cutting head having a plurality of cutting blades for cutting the food product; and

second pivot means pivotally mounting the cutting head on the base for pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food product to be positioned on the slotted anvil and a lowered cutting position whereat the cutting blades have sliced through the food product and into slots in the anvil.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is generally flat and includes a generally planar top surface.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the slotted support surface of said slotted anvil is generally parallel to the top surface of the base.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said slotted anvil includes pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the slotted support surface of the anvil above the base.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said slotted anvil is a one-piece structure stamped and formed of sheet metal material and includes generally horizontal feet portions at opposite ends of the slotted support surface for engaging the base and generally vertical pedestal portions joining the feet portions to opposite ends of a slotted plate portion forming said slotted support surface.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cutting head comprises a cast metal frame having a central opening spanned by a plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting blades aligned with a plurality of slots in the anvil.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said cutting blades have rounded cutting edges to prevent the blades from cutting an operator's fingers.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein opposite ends of said cutting blades are press-fit into grooves in the cast metal frame.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both said first and second pivot means include readily removable pivot shaft means to provide for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil and the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both said first and second pivot means include a common pivot shaft for both the slotted anvil and the cutting head.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said common pivot shaft comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable proximal end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to allow for ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the slotted anvil and the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first and second pivot means include a pivot portion which is common to both pivot means.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said slotted anvil is disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting head.

16. (Original) A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product, comprising:

a generally flat base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support surface and including a generally planar top surface;

a slotted anvil disposed on top of the base and including a slotted support surface on which the food product is positioned, the anvil including pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the slotted support surface above and generally parallel to the top surface of the base;

first pivot means pivotally mounting the slotted anvil on the base for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-supporting position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food particles to be cleaned off of the base;

a cutting head having a case metal frame with a central opening spanned by a plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting blades aligned with a plurality of slots in the slotted support surface of the anvil; and

second pivot means pivotally mounting the cutting head on the base for pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food product to be positioned on the slotted anvil and a lowered cutting position whereat the cutting blades have sliced through the food product and into slots in the anvil.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said slotted anvil is a one-piece structure stamped and formed of sheet metal material and includes generally horizontal feet portions at opposite ends of the slotted support surface for engaging the base and generally vertical pedestal portions joining the feet portions to opposite ends of a slotted plate portion forming said slotted support surface.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said cutting blades have rounded cutting edges to prevent the blades from cutting an operator's fingers.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein opposite ends of said cutting blades are press-fit into grooves in the cast metal frame.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said second pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein both said first and second pivot means include a common pivot shaft for both the slotted anvil and the cutting head.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said common pivot shaft comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable proximal end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to allow for ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the slotted anvil and the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first and second pivot means include a pivot portion which is common to both pivot means.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said slotted anvil is disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting head.

26. (Original) A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product, comprising:

a base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support surface;

an anvil disposed on top of the base and including a support surface on which the food product is positioned;

a cutting head having a plurality of cutting blades for cutting the food product; and

a common pivot means for pivotally mounting both the anvil and the cutting head on the base, whereby the cutting head is mounted for pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food product to be positioned on the anvil and a lowered cutting position whereat the cutting blades have sliced through the food product, and the anvil is mounted for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-supporting position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food products to be cleaned off of the base.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said base is generally flat and includes a generally planar top surface.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support surface of the anvil is generally flat and generally parallel to the top surface of the base.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said anvil includes pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the support surface of the anvil above the base.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said cutting head comprises a cast metal frame having a central opening spanned by a plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting blades aligned with a plurality of slots in the anvil.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said first pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said common pivot means comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable proximal end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to allow for ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the anvil and the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said slotted anvil is disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting head.

34. (New) A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product, comprising:

a base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support surface;

an anvil including a support surface against which the food product is abuttingly engageable;

a cutting head having a plurality of cutting blades for cutting the food product; and

pivot means for pivotally mounting the anvil and the cutting head on the base whereby the anvil and the cutting head are pivotally mounted for relative movement toward and away from each other, and the anvil and the cutting head are pivotally mounted for movement between elevated and lowered positions relative to the base.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said pivot means is a common pivot means for both the anvil and the cutting head.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said cutting head is pivotally mounted for movement above the anvil.